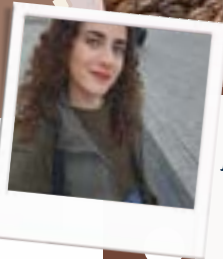


Newsletter



Message from our teachers



Dear Parents, Students, and Friends of our School,
 As we step into the New Year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all of you for a joyful and prosperous 2025. Reflecting on the recent activities and events, I am filled with pride at the wonderful experiences we have shared at the Greek School Ayia Triada.

January marks the beginning of a vibrant academic journey, and we are delighted to highlight some key events in the coming months. A significant highlight is our Annual Celebration for the Three Hierarchs, a cherished tradition that honors the great pillars of education and faith—Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, and Saint John Chrysostom. This event serves as a reminder of the values of wisdom, knowledge, and love for learning that we uphold at GSAT. As we move into February, we eagerly anticipate the Annual Festival of Mother Language, a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the richness of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage within our community.

This event underscores our commitment to fostering inclusivity and global awareness among our students. The Spring Term is also packed with activities throughout February, March, and April, bringing opportunities for academic, cultural, and social engagement. From educational programs and competitions to community events and celebrations, our students will have a chance to immerse themselves in meaningful experiences that inspire growth and creativity. We look forward to sharing these moments with you and making this term a memorable one. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we wish you all a successful and fulfilling term ahead!

I am deeply grateful for the continued support and dedication from all of you—our parents, staff, and students. Together, we have built a nurturing and inspiring environment where our children can thrive academically and grow as proud members of the Greek community. On behalf of the entire team at Ayia Triada, I wish you a Happy New Year filled with health, happiness, and success. May 2025 bring peace, joy, and new opportunities for all.

With warm regards,
 Elli Desli

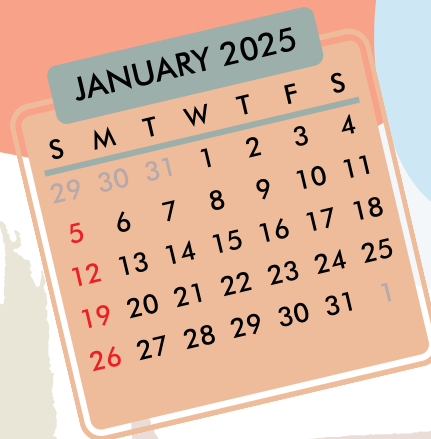
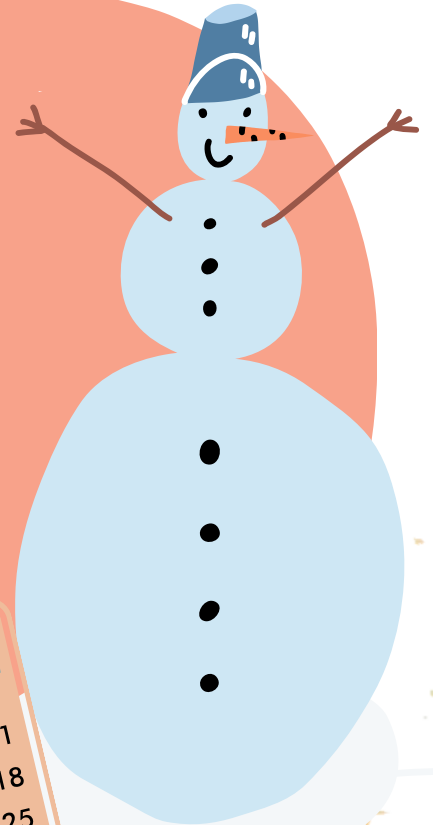
JANUARY



INFO

WHAT'S ON

- p2 Contents, poem of the month
- p3 Students of the month
- p4 Theophany Celebrations
- p5 The Three Hierarchs and Celebration of Education
- p6 Three Hierarchs Annual Celebration for our School
- p8 Field Trip to the National Sealife Centre, YIAdv & Y3
- p9 Attending a Theatre Show at Birmingham REP
- p10 Greek Section at Birmingham Library- our Contribution
- p11 Our Dance Classes
- p12-p15 Class Pages
- p16 EU Ambassador Schools Corner
- p17 Rights Respecting Schools Pages



ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

Του Γενάρη το ηλιοβασίλεμα

Του Γενάρη ηλιοβασίλεμα
θαλανό, καθάριο λάμπει,
στολισμένο με τα χρώματα
μιας μαγιάτικης αυγής.

Πρώιμη άνοιξη χιορτάζουνε
ο άλλος κόσμος άλλοι κάμποι:
Τ'ουρανού τα ρόδα ανθίσανε
πριν ανθίσουνε της γης.

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ ΔΡΟΣΙΝΗΣ

Πηγή: Άπαντα Γεωργίου Δροσίνη

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03-10th February Progress Reports release
- 12-17th February Parents Evenings
- 22nd February, Mother Language Festival REP
- 9th March Annual Memorial Pallikarides & Afxentiou
- 10th March Royal Commonwealth Day Service
- 22nd March Annual Celebration 25th March 1821
- 29th March Mother's Day Afternoon TEA



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



NURS. & REC.

Melina H .
Marios D.
Eftihia.K

YEAR 3 & YEAR 4

Dimitris Ch.
Christos K.
Margarita K.
Philip G.
Evdokia A.

YEAR 6 & GCSE

Panayiota P.
Lydia G.
Kyriaki P.
Ioannis Ch.
Angeliki El. B.
Anna G.

YEAR 1

Stavros.K
Christina.D

ELLINOMATHEIA

Vangelis F.
Nassiana Z.

YEAR 1 ADV. & 2

Christos G.
Lucas Z.
Ilianna S.
Savvas K.



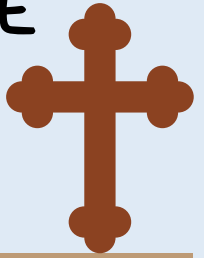
COMMONWEALTH DAY SERVICE STUDENT GROUP

The students selected this year to participate in the Annual Commonwealth Day Service which will be held in London at Westminster Abbey on Monday 10th March are the following 6 young people.
WELL DONE!

- Dimitris Valsamakis
- Paraskevi Nicolaou
- Savvas Kyriakou
- Christina Demetriou
- Zacharias Karafillides
- Anysia Barton



THEOPHANY: CELEBRATING THE BLESSING OF THE WATERS



On January 6th, Greece and Cyprus celebrate Theophany, also known as the Feast of the Epiphany or Ta Fota. This important Christian holiday marks the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River and symbolises spiritual enlightenment.

One of the most striking traditions of Theophany is the Blessing of the Waters. In coastal towns, lakes, and rivers, priests throw a cross into the water, and brave swimmers dive in to retrieve it. The one who finds the cross is said to receive a special blessing for the year ahead. This ritual signifies the purification of both people and nature.

Another tradition is the Great Blessing of the Waters in homes and churches, where holy water is sprinkled to bring protection and renewal. The day also marks the end of the Christmas celebrations.

Theophany is a deeply spiritual and cultural event, bringing communities together to honour faith, renewal, and the power of light over darkness.



On Epiphany, the priest of our church, the Church of Holy Trinity and Saint Luke, threw the cross in the Brookvale Park Lake, right next to our school. Parents and students from our school attended and watched the ritual.



JANUARY 30TH:

Η ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ

Three Holy Hierarchs

The Feast of the Three Hierarchs, celebrated on January 30th, honors three great saints of the Eastern Orthodox Church: Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, and Saint John Chrysostom. These revered figures, known as the "Three Holy Hierarchs," are celebrated for their profound contributions to Christian theology, their commitment to education, and their charitable works.

Saint Basil the Great was renowned for his care for the poor and his extensive writings that shaped Christian monasticism. Saint Gregory the Theologian is celebrated for his theological insights and oratory skills, particularly in defending the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Saint John Chrysostom, known for his eloquent sermons, emphasized the importance of moral living and social justice.

The Feast of the Three Hierarchs is not only a religious celebration but also a significant cultural event in Greece, particularly for educators and students. Schools often commemorate the day with special services, speeches, and educational activities to highlight the importance of learning and ethical living, inspired by the lives of these three saints.



Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος (349 - 407 μ.Χ.)

John Chrysostom was born in Antioch, Syria. He studied Theology, Philosophy, and Rhetoric. He spoke on issues relevant to his time, and his speeches were so excellent that he was called "Chrysostom" (Golden-mouthed). He organized meals for thousands of poor people but also made many enemies as he criticized the mistakes of the rulers. He was exiled and died from hardships. Today, he is considered a saint by both the Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος (329 - 390 μ.Χ.)

Gregory of Nazianzus was born in Arianzus, near Nazianzus in Cappadocia, to landowning parents. He studied Philosophy, Rhetoric, Law, and Philology in Athens. Besides being a theologian, he was also a poet. He wrote poems with theological and moral teachings. He renounced his wealth, became a priest, and later Patriarch in Constantinople. However, he quickly left the patriarchal throne and returned to his small province.



Βασίλειος ο Μέγας (330 - 479 μ.Χ.)

Basil the Great was born in Neocaesarea in Pontus to noble, Orthodox, and educated parents. He studied in Constantinople and Athens, covering subjects like geometry, philosophy, astronomy, rhetoric, medicine, and grammar. He donated a large part of his personal fortune to the poor and the church. He always helped the poor, the hungry, and the sick, regardless of race, religion, or origin. His life's work includes founding the Basiliad from his wealth—a complex for caring for strangers, providing medical care to the poor and sick, and offering vocational training to the unskilled.

THREE HOLY HIERARCHS OUR SCHOOL CELEBRATION



On the 26th of January 2025, our school proudly celebrated the Feast of the Three Hierarchs, a day dedicated to faith, learning, and the virtues of wisdom and love. The celebration took place in the serene atmosphere of our school's church, bringing together students, parents, and staff in a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of the Three Hierarchs — Saint Basil the Great, Saint Gregory the Theologian, and Saint John Chrysostom.

The day's programme was both inspiring and uplifting. Our talented pupils recited poems with grace and confidence, reflecting the timeless teachings of the saints. Their voices filled the church with melodies as they sang a beautiful song dedicated to the Three Hierarchs, a song that celebrated their contributions to education and spirituality. Parents, filled with pride, admired their children's heartfelt performances, showing their appreciation with warm smiles and enthusiastic applause. The atmosphere was one of unity, reverence, and joy—a testament to the strong bond between our school community and the timeless values we cherish.



THREE HOLY HIERARCHS OUR SCHOOL CELEBRATION



Following our heartfelt celebration of the Three Hierarchs, the festivities continued in the school hall, where a delightful lunch awaited students, parents, and staff. The aroma of delicious dishes filled the air, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all to enjoy. However, this gathering was more than just a meal. It was a celebration of excellence, tradition, and community spirit. During the event, we proudly honoured our students who excelled in last year's Ellinomatheia exams. The awards ceremony was a moment of great pride for the recipients and their families, as their hard work and dedication were recognised and celebrated by all. Adding to the joyous occasion, some of our talented students performed traditional Greek dances. Both boys and girls took to the stage, and showcased their skills with grace and enthusiasm. Their performances captivated the audience, who responded with cheers, applause, and admiration. The day was a perfect blend of cultural pride and academic achievement, reminding us of the values we strive to uphold as a school. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making this event so memorable and look forward to more opportunities to celebrate the success and talents of our students. It was truly a day to treasure!



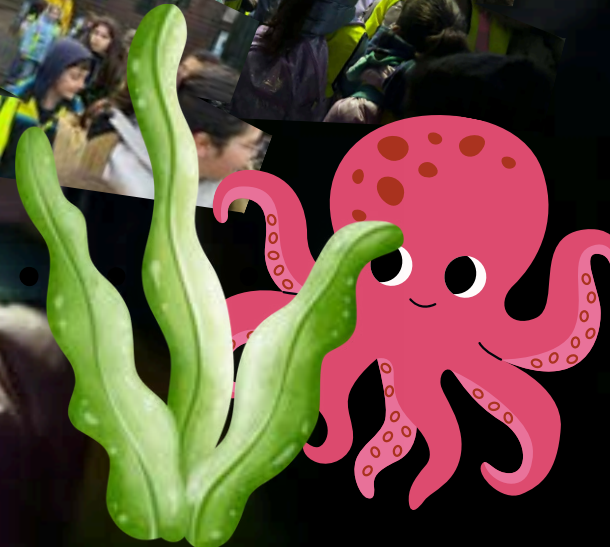
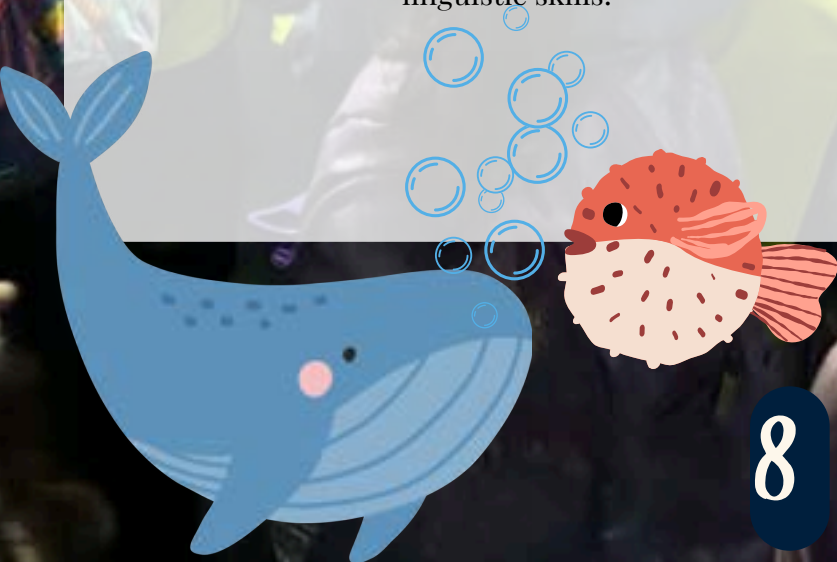
VISIT TO THE SEA LIFE CENTRE

On Saturday, January 11, 2025, the Y3 and Y1+ classes of the Greek School of the Holy Trinity in Birmingham visited the Birmingham Aquarium on an educational trip full of knowledge and discoveries. This visit was part of their curriculum, with the goal of linking the excursion to the development of vocabulary and, subsequently, written expression, building upon the lessons they have been taught.

The children had the opportunity to explore the enchanting worlds of the oceans and seas while also learning about the importance of protecting the marine environment. During the visit, they observed various species of fish and marine organisms up close, such as penguins, starfish, sharks, rays, jellyfish, seahorses, and more, discovering their unique characteristics and their role in the ecosystem.

Through educational presentations and interactive activities, the children gained valuable knowledge about the need to preserve marine life and protect the oceans from pollution and overexploitation.

The visit proved to be an unforgettable experience for all the students, combining education with fun and experiential learning. Furthermore, it enhanced their vocabulary, which they will later use to develop written texts, connecting the acquisition of knowledge with the production of language and the cultivation of their linguistic skills.



The snowflake



the Rep



On the 11th of January, our students from Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 1 Advanced had the wonderful opportunity to attend a captivating performance of "The Snowflake" at the Birmingham Rep Theatre. The children were enchanted by the magical storytelling and stunning visuals that brought the winter wonderland to life on stage.

The trip was not only a delightful cultural experience but also an inspiring one, as it encouraged our young learners to engage with the arts and spark their imaginations. It was heartwarming to see their excited faces as they watched the story unfold, filled with wonder and joy. We are grateful for the support of our parents and the dedication of our staff in making this trip a success. Such experiences are invaluable in broadening our students' horizons and enriching their learning journey.



LIBRARY

VISIT TO THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM



On January 11th, our Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 1 Advanced students had the exciting opportunity to visit the Birmingham Library. This visit was a memorable experience, highlighting the joy of reading and the importance of cultural exchange.

As part of our visit, the children had the honor of donating Greek books to the library on behalf of our school. This gesture not only enriched the library's collection but also helped to promote the beauty of Greek literature and culture within the wider community. Our students were excited and proud to be part of this meaningful contribution.

In addition to the donation, the children enjoyed reading sessions where they listened to and read stories in both Greek and English. It was a heartwarming experience that highlighted the importance of bilingual literacy and the joy of storytelling. The atmosphere was filled with curiosity and excitement as our students discovered new tales and shared their love for reading.



DANCE CLASSES AT OUR SCHOOL



This year, our school has been proud to host an exhilarating array of dance classes, led by the dynamic duo, Mrs. Sotiria Karafillides and Mr. Dimitris Themistokleous. These classes have quickly become a vibrant part of our community, bringing together students of all ages to experience the joy of dance.



Classes are held on Mondays from 19:30 to 20:30 exclusively for our students, ensuring they have a dedicated time to refine their moves and express themselves. Tuesdays offer a fantastic mix, with sessions for children from 18:30 to 19:00, followed by a spirited class for adults from 19:00 to 20:00. The excitement continues on Saturdays, where the energy is palpable as school children participate in two age-group-specific sessions from 14:00 to 15:00, followed by the adults taking the floor from 15:00 to 16:00.



It has been truly inspiring to witness the growth and enthusiasm surrounding these classes. Both children and adults are not only improving their dance skills but also building friendships and creating unforgettable memories along the way.



If you're passionate about dance or curious to try something new, we warmly invite you to join us. Reach out to our school directly or connect with Mrs. Karafillides and Mr. Themistokleous. Our doors are always open to new dancers, eager to join this flourishing community.



NURSERY- RECEPTION



YEAR 1 ADVANCED & YEAR 2



YEAR 3 & YEAR 4 CLASSES



Getting children to talk
with confidence through
play. Y3 Saturday



European Corner

Did you know?

That the country with the most castles in Europe is CZECH REPUBLIC?

So, just how many castles are there in the Czech Republic? The castle count is truly astonishing, as the country is home to over 2,000 castles and chateaux! Each castle has its own unique story to tell and offers visitors a glimpse into the past.



Exploring these architectural gems provides a fascinating insight into the country's cultural heritage and historical significance. Some of the most famous castles include the iconic Prague Castle, Karlštejn Castle, Hluboká Castle, and Český Krumlov Castle.

FUN
FACT



BRINGING EUROPE
INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

Rights Respecting School

As a Bronze Rights Respecting School we are committed in upholding all rights of all children, all of the time.



The rights of the child are enshrined in the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child," which was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. The UK signed the convention on 19 April 1990, ratified it on 16 December 1991 and it came into force on 15 January 1992. There are 54 articles.

Article 8

Article 8 - every child has the right to an identity, an official record of who they are, which includes their name, nationality and family relations.



Article 8 emphasizes the right of the children to preserve their identity, including nationality, name and family relations without unlawful interference. This article is crucial because it ensures that children's personal identity remains intact, protecting them from arbitrary or unjust disruptions that could harm their sense of belonging and stability. It also safeguards the children's right to know and be cared for by their parents, which is essential for their emotional, social and psychological development.